

# AgriBiz!

SC Agricultural Education Magazine

Volume XVII Issue 2 2016



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US Postage  
Paid  
Greenville SC  
Permit #113

PO Box 23205, Columbia, SC 29224-3205



## The 2016-17 State Officers Will #TransformSCFFA!

### Austin Cathcart – President

**Parents:** Robin and Chris Cathcart

**Chapter:** Lexington Richland 5 FFA

**School:** Freshman at Clemson majoring in Agriculture Education

**SAE:** Entrepreneurial meat goat production

**Hobbies:** hunting fishing and anything outside

**Future plans:** Teach agriculture in high school hopefully in South Carolina

**Lasting Contribution to SC FFA:**

To help all members on their personal FFA journey and to encourage them to advocate for agriculture while having have a positive impact with-in their family, their school and community.



### Joey McCannon – Secretary

**Parents:** Steve & Nancy McCannon

**Home Chapter:** Pendleton FFA Chapter

**School:** Freshman at Clemson University

**SAE:** Diversified Livestock Production

**Hobbies:** Clogging, hiking, and really anything outdoors!

**Future Plans:** Major in Agricultural Education and achieve a Masters Degree before teaching Ag Ed in the classroom.

**Lasting Contribution to SC FFA:** To help all SCFFA members speak up for themselves, and to know that they're part of #FFamily.



### Brooke Feder – Vice President

**Parents:** Brett & Karen Feder

**Home Chapter:** Pelion FFA Chapter

**School:** Freshman at Clemson University

**SAE:** Equine Management

**Hobbies:** horseback riding, reading & traveling

**Future Plans:** earn a degree Agricultural Education at Clemson University

**Lasting Contribution to SC FFA:**

encouraging others to find their talents and use them to fuel their passions



### Audrey Cutlip – Vice President

**Parent:** Misty Carter

**Home Chapter:** Blythewood FFA Chapter

**School:** Freshman Bridge Student at Tri-County Technical College/ Clemson University

**SAE:** Small Animal Care

**Hobbies:** Riding horses, fishing, and dog agility

**Future Plans:** Become an Agriculture teacher!

**Lasting Contribution to SC**

**FFA:** Giving members the support and resources they need to be successful in and out of the FFA and always being there for them.



### Haley Nealy – Vice President

**Parents:** James and Shannon Nealy

**Home Chapter:** Pickens County CTC FFA Chapter

**School:** Freshman at Tri County Technical College

**SAE:** Breeding and Raising Meat Rabbits

**Hobbies:** Discovering new music

**Future Plans:** Earn a degree in Agriculture Education

**Lasting Contribution to SC FFA:** For members to know that your past doesn't define your future.



### Kaytlynn Simmons – Vice President

**Parent:** Dana Simmons

**Home Chapter:** McBee FFA Chapter

**School:** Senior at McBee High School

**SAE:** Community Service

**Hobbies:** Dance, cheer, and reading

**Future Plans:** Pre-Dental

**Lasting Contribution to SC FFA:**

to inspire members and encourage those members to be stronger advocates for agriculture



To follow your State Officers:

Facebook: SC FFA Officers

Instagram: @scffaofficers

Snapchat: scffaofficers

#TransformSCFFA





## 89th State FFA Convention – #AmplifySCFFA

*Contributed by Keith Cox*

SC FFA was “Amplified” at Clemson University with nearly 900 members, advisors and guest that attended the 89th South Carolina FFA Convention. The convention was held in the Brooks Center for Performing Arts on June 8th - 10th, 2016.

During the First General Session, the Pendleton JROTC posted the colors and the National Anthem was sung by Alexis Clark, Erica Wearing and Emily Steele from Seneca FFA, and Anna Catherine Wayne, 2014-2015 State FFA President, gave the invocation after the State FFA Officers opened the session. The convention attendees were formally welcomed to campus by Dr. James P. Clements, President of Clemson University.

Also, during this session, the outstanding chapters were recognized in the National Chapter and Governor’s Citation presentations. Individual FFA members were recognized for receiving over \$29,000 worth of scholarships for their hard work in school and with their Supervised Agriculture Experience (SAE). This was a record amount for the association. Appreciation was expressed to the SC Young Farmers and Agribusiness Association, National FFA and the SC Fertilizer and Agrichemicals Association for their continued support of the SC FFA through scholarships. The keynote speaker, Judson Laipply, used the phenomenon labeled “Inspirational Comedy” to make the convention laugh and think in his presentation.

Thursday morning began with members competing in the eight State CDE events that were conducted on the Clemson University campus. Those not competing in CDE’s were given the opportunity to attend a workshop presented by National FFA Vice President, Abrah Meyers or tour the new West End Zone at Clemson’s Death Valley.

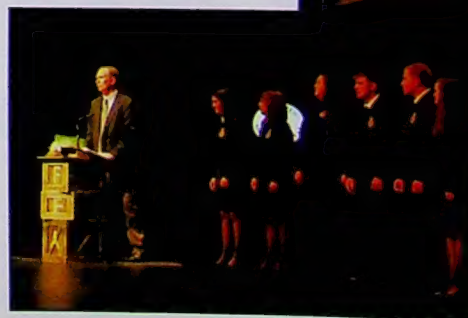
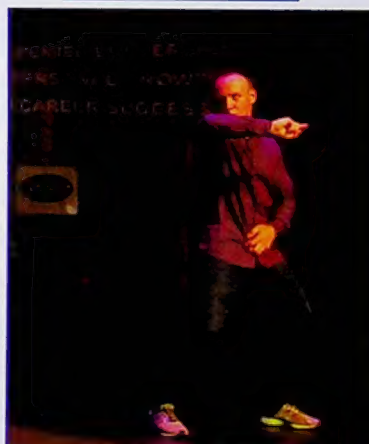
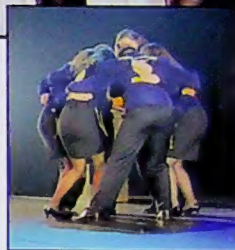
The Second General session was held on Thursday afternoon, during which the state officer candidates were introduced, and the SCAAE recognized twenty-four “Teach Ag” students. These students have shown a serious interest in teaching agriculture in the future. The State FFA Degree was also presented to two hundred and eighteen members. The keynote speaker for the session was Stephen Tyner, the 2005 -2006 SC FFA State President from the McBee FFA chapter.

At the Third General Session held on Thursday evening, a record nineteen members were recognized as candidates for the American FFA Degree. This is the highest degree the National FFA offers. The Honorary State FFA Degree was bestowed to eleven adults that have supported the South Carolina FFA Association. In addition, FFA members were recognized for their Supervised Agriculture Experience (SAE) projects during the “FFA Stars over South Carolina presentation”. The session ended with a keynote presentation by National FFA Vice President, Abrah Meyers. After the session everyone was invited to Pickens County Career and Technology Center for a night of ice cream, games, music and friends.

The Convention concluded on Friday morning with the Fourth General Session where forty-five chapters received awards for having 75% -100+% membership. Hugh Weathers, South Carolina Commissioner of Agriculture, made a special presentation as one chapter that registered ten or more members, was randomly selected to have dinner with him. Commissioner Weathers also accepted a donation from the SC FFA chapters and the SC FFA Association to the “Plant It Forward” initiative to help farmers that suffered from the historical flood of 2015.

The session also honored nineteen members as State Proficiency Award winners and concluded with the announcement of six FFA members who will serve as the 2016-2017 State Officer Team.

The 2015-16 State FFA Officer team is to be commended for their hard work during their year of service and for conducting a very successful state convention.





### Farm Business Mgt.



Strom Thurmond  
L-R Jeremy Brooks (Advisor), Emily Cleveland, Weston Whitfield, Meg Hoffmann, Gracie Herrin

### Greenhand Knowledge Bowl



Calhoun Falls  
L-R: Nancy McCannon (Advisor), Anna Grace Rhodes, Olivia Rodriguez, Rebecca Fleming, Braxton McCoy

### Meats Eval. & Tech.



Dixie  
L-R Calvert Sherard, Jason Brown, Haley White, Nick Risner, Harmony Garland

### Extemp Speaking



Joey McCannon  
Pendleton

### Prep. Public Speaking



Michaela Gibson  
Pickens CTC  
Steve McCannon (Advisor)

### Job Interview



Bailey Pederson  
Strom Thurmond  
Darla Steele (Advisor)

### Upper Creed



Daisy Young  
Wagener Salley

### Creed Speaking



Caleigh Dover  
Clover

### Parli Pro



Calhoun Falls  
Skyler Elgin, Carson Johnson  
Andrew Cobb, Christian Bradley and Philip Rhodes  
Not pictured: William Lewis

## National Chapter Winners Named

*Contributed by Keith Cox*

The National Chapter Award program recognizes FFA chapters that successfully complete an annual Program of Activities that includes a series of activities designed to encourage its members to grow as individuals, to work as part of a team, and to serve others.

Three chapters were awarded the Governor's Citation for exceptional activities. Those chapters awarded were the Crestwood Chapter for Student Development, the Seneca Chapter for Chapter Development and the Manning Chapter for Community Development.

Mr. Wesley Harris, Secretary/Treasurer of the South Carolina Rural Rehabilitation Corporation, Mr. Larry Rogers, Farm Loan Specialist - USDA Farm Service Agency, William C. Stanley, President of the South

Carolina Rural Rehabilitation Corporation and Wilfred L. Pace, State Executive Director, South Carolina Farm Service Agency, presented the chapters with a check for \$1000 on behalf of SC Rural Rehabilitation Corporation.

Nine chapters were awarded for receiving a Gold rating. Those chapters honored were Calhoun Falls High School, Dixie High School, Lexington County Technology Center, McBee High School, Pickens County Career and Technology Center and the Center for Advanced Technical Studies (Lexington - Richland 5).

The SC FFA Foundation presented each of the Gold Chapters with funds to attend the National FFA Convention.



### Crestwood

Wesley Harris, SC Rural Rehabilitation Corporation, Jason Gore, Agriculture Teacher, Abigail Lewandoski, Chapter President, William C. Stanley President of the SC Rural Rehabilitation Corporation, Larry Rogers, USDA-FSA, and Wilfred L. Pace, State Executive Director, USDA-FSA



### Manning

Wesley Harris, SC Rural Rehabilitation Corporation, Mike Haynes, Agriculture Teacher, Andrea Liddell, Chapter President 2015-16, William C. Stanley President of the SC Rural Rehabilitation Corporation, Larry Rogers, USDA-FSA, and Wilfred L. Pace, State Executive Director, USDA-FSA



### Seneca

Wesley Harris, SC Rural Rehabilitation Corporation, Christina Alexandra, Agriculture Teacher, Chandani Patel, Chapter President 2015-16, William C. Stanley President of the SC Rural Rehabilitation Corporation, Larry Rogers, USDA-FSA, and Wilfred L. Pace, State Executive Director, USDA-FSA





# \$22,500

## A New Record for National FFA Scholarships

*Contributed by Keith Cox*

The National FFA Organization awards over \$2.5 million in scholarships each year. Scholarships are sponsored by businesses and individuals through the National FFA Foundation and are given for a wide variety of experiences, career goals and higher education plans. The selection process is based on an online application and takes into account FFA involvement, work experience, SAE, community service, leadership skills, and academics. This year 14 SC FFA members received scholarships totaling \$22,500!

Thomas Birchmore – Clinton FFA  
Ram Trucks Dealer / Cooper Motor Company  
\$1,000.00

Carla Byrd – Blythewood FFA  
National FFA Foundation  
\$1,000.00

Anna Comer – York FFA  
CSX  
\$4,000.00

Reilly Craver – Center for Advanced Technical Studies  
FFA  
National FFA Combined  
\$1,000.00

Allison Harman – Gilbert FFA  
Case IH Future Farmer  
\$1,000.00

Nathan Hilley – Gilbert FFA  
Georgia M. Hellberg Memorial  
\$5,000.00

Katie Martin – Pendleton FFA  
National FFA Scholarships  
Funded by National FFA Staff, Board, and Individuals  
\$1,000.00

Joseph McCannon – Pendleton FFA  
AGCO Corporation  
\$2,000.00

Melanie Mullikin – Pendleton FFA  
National FFA Combined  
\$1,000.00

Bailey Pederson – Strom Thurmond FFA  
National Association of Landscape Professionals Foundation  
\$1,500.00

Sarah Richey – Belton Honea Path FFA  
Bunge North America  
\$1,000.00

Kaitlin Shirley – Anderson I & II CTC FFA  
Ram Trucks Dealer/ Piedmont RAM  
\$1,000.00

Maddie Thorne – Laurens FFA  
Ram Trucks Dealer / Cooper Motor Company  
\$1,000.00

Alana Thurmond – Strom Thurmond FFA  
NAPA AUTO PARTS  
\$1,000.00

## SC Young Farmers Present Scholarships

*Contributed by Keith Cox*

The South Carolina Young Farmer and Agribusiness Association offers assistance, through scholarships, to students who have chosen to attend a college or technical school in order to prepare for a career in Agriculture.

Each year, a designated number of scholarships are reserved for those students who are currently attending or are accepted to Clemson University. Scholarships are also available to those students who are currently attending or are accepted to a technical college or other college or university that offers a study in an agriculturally related field.

This year's scholarships were awarded to the following:

- Bailey Pederson – Strom Thurmond, Darla Steel and Jeremy Brooks (Advisors)
- Courtney Petitgout – Nation Ford, Lee Petitgout (Advisor)
- Jessie Russell – Newberry, Ashley Priester and Holly Havird (Advisors)
- Dalton Satterfield – Laurens Chapter, Melanie Birchmore and Kyle Penland (Advisors)



## SC Fertilizer & Agri-Chemicals Assoc. Presents Scholarship

*Contributed by Keith Cox*



The SC Fertilizer and Agri-chemicals Association annually presents a Scholarship in honor of Hilton V. Rogers. This year's recipient is Brooke Feder of the Pelion FFA Chapter. Her Advisors are Frank Stover and Tommy Harmon.

## Agriscience Award Winners

Animal Systems Division 1: Catherine Faulkner, Clover  
Division 2: Branson McClain, Dixie  
Division 4: Austin Phillips and Tucker Bednark, Dixie

Social Systems Division 2: Kyle Wielkie, Lexington Technology Center

Division 3: Alexis Lee and Madison Towe, Seneca  
Division 4: Jordan Pritchard and Emily Oswald, Lexington Technology Center

Plant Systems Division 1: Caleigh Dover, Clover  
Division 2: Mikaela Way, Colleton Co.  
Division 3: Grace Powell and Caroline Crowe, Seneca  
Division 4: Tyler Schneider and Sarah Mazurkewicz, Lexington Technology Center

Power Structure and Technology Systems Division 2: Ethan Graham, LR5

ENR Systems Division 1: Bailey Worley, Seneca  
Division 2: Lauren Gunter, Pelion  
Division 3: Riley Hard and Gentry Hawk, Seneca  
Division 4: Carson Trotter and Jonathon Amerson, Lexington Technology Center

## SC FFA Scholarship King and Queen

*Contributed by Keith Cox*

Each year the Batesburg-Leesville FFA Chapter hosts the Miss FFA Scholarship Pageant and The Pendleton FFA Chapter hosts the Mr. FFA Scholarship Competition. Contestants enter from FFA Chapters throughout the state and winners are awarded a scholarship. The 2016 Miss SC FFA is Allison Harmon from the Gilbert Chapter and the 2016 Mr. SC FFA is Joey McCannon of the Pendleton FFA Chapter.





## **FFA Star Farmer – Graylyn Christenbury**

*Contributed by Tim Keown*



The State Star Farmer is Graylyn Christenbury from the Crescent FFA Chapter.

Graylyn is a part owner of an 82-acre farm in Starr, SC, which consists of beef cattle, poultry, hay and timber. He also rents an additional 20 acres of pastureland. He has learned all aspects of the farm, including vaccination and clipping of his cattle. He observes his cattle each and every day and checks for sickness or injuries.

Graylyn has learned that 82 acres of pasture require constant maintenance on the fences to keep them in good condition. He ran temporary electric fences to create rotational grazing.

In his care are 17 cows that he owns by himself and knows the history and health of each of them as he checks them daily for sound herd management. Graylyn learned that if he works with his cattle often, this builds docility in the cattle, which makes it easier to administer shots and handling them.

Graylyn has learned how to artificially inseminate his herd. He'd rather do this so he can choose the genetics that suit him the best. He states that with his size of herd, it is less expensive to AI.

Graylyn believes that proper maintenance on equipment may cost more time and material up front, but for a long term investment it's much less expensive to grease his equipment before a long day in the field.

Roger Estridge and Jeff Murdock are his advisors.

## **Star in Agribusiness – Melanie Mullikin**

*Contributed by Tim Keown*



The State Star in Agribusiness is Melanie Mullikin from the Pendleton FFA Chapter. Melanie is the proud owner-operator of "Mo's Snak Shak", which is a vending business where she mainly sells boiled peanuts.

Melanie lives on a 20-acre farm in Pendleton where they have several varieties of livestock. Her family has owned this property since the 1890's.

Melanie has a small building that is easily portable with a truck and trailer. She can have her building set up for business in less than 10 minutes wherever she travels.

Mo's Snak Shak gives back to the community by donating a portion of her profits back to the event that she is working. Such as, when she sold at the elementary school field day, she gave all of her profits back to their school.

Melanie bags the peanuts after she boils them to make it easier to transport and measure out for resell. She is a one-person operation and that, of course, includes accounting. To keep her bottom line and stay in the black, she is very attentive with her proceeds and keeps very good records of her finances.

Cooking peanuts is a long process that can't be rushed. The water has to be kept continuously boiling for the best tasting peanuts. She states that she has learned safe practices to avoid being burned by the steam.

She believes in the best customer service and she credits much of her recent business success with repeat customers and word of mouth advertisement.

Her advisor is Blake Berry.

## **Star in Agricultural Placement – Will Lever**

*Contributed by Tim Keown*



The State Star in Agricultural Placement is Will Lever from the Newberry FFA Chapter.

Will is employed by Lever Farms in Newberry, SC, which grow, harvest, and market a variety of seasonal vegetables. They transplant their strawberries as plugs and he works together with his family as a team as they transplant 38,000 plants over 3 acres.

Will lends his hand not only in the field but also in marketing the product of his toil. They sell produce at several farmers markets including, Newberry, Irmo, and even Asheville, NC. He and his family split up on the weekends and travel to those locations in hopes to cover a larger area and still keep the market open on the farm.

Lever Farms is currently the only farm in Newberry County that offers a "U pick / We Pick" pumpkin and strawberry operation. Since they began this operation, field trip requests have skyrocketed. They have begun reserving Fridays as the field trip day. Will enjoys serving as a tour guide as often as he can. The tours begin with a guided tour through the garden area then they travel by wagon to see the livestock, bees, and peach orchard. They allow customers to pick their own, which has really been a huge help with labor costs. The customers enjoy the experience and the farm benefits from having less labor costs.

Will's Advisors are Ashley Priester and Holly Havird.

## **ArborOne Farm Credit Supports the SC FFA**

*Contributed by Keith Cox*

ArborOne Farm Credit contributed \$20,000 to the South Carolina FFA Association during the State Convention from proceeds raised during their Aim-at-Ag® sporting clays tournament fundraiser.

The event is held annually. The 2016 event, held on September 24 at Black River Sporting Clays in Kingstree, SC had a large number of shooters. Many FFA members were on hand to participate and to assist with conducting the tournament.

Over the past 5 years, ArborOne has raised over \$80,000 to support the South Carolina FFA Association.







## FFA Members Enjoy a Summer of Camping Activities

*Contributed by Megan Stevens*

This summer, over 500 FFA members from across the state flocked to the FFA camp in North Myrtle Beach to enjoy the sun, sand, and recreational activities the camp had to offer. Campers were afforded the opportunity to become closer to members from their own chapter as well as forming relationships with other members from across the state.

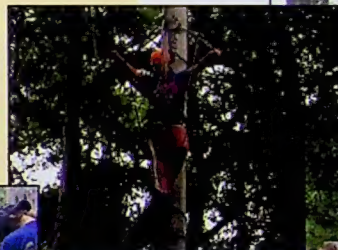
Campers participated in a variety of traditional camp activities including beach trips, kayaking, low ropes, high ropes, paintball, pool, athletics, cardboard project, and color war. It was a pleasure to watch how much the students enjoyed themselves during the weeks and to see the take away's from their experiences at camp.

The highlight of the week for many campers was completing the high ropes course. To do so they must be willing to overcome fears of heights, falling, and failure. They also learn the importance of being an encourager to others when they are facing difficult tasks. Another camper favorite is paintball; having to work with unfamiliar people to create, communicate, execute, and adjust a plan at a moments notice provides a real-world opportunity to practice the leadership skills FFA promotes in its members.

Thursdays were a blast of FFA spirit as the blue and gold teams competed in a variety of contest during the "color war". Each morning began with beach games, while afternoons were spent competing in kayak races, water sports, paintball and always the fan favorite lip-sync competition.

This year's cardboard project challenged campers to build a working rocking chair from nothing but cardboard, duct tape, and a dowel rod. Several of this year's winners were able to function while holding over 200 pounds!

FFA members are afforded the opportunity to participate in camping programs held throughout the summer, spring and fall.





## Teachers Conference Held in York County

*Contributed by Billy Keels*

The 2016 South Carolina Agricultural Education Teachers Conference was held in July in York County at Fort Mill High School.

Teachers who arrived early had an opportunity to tour BankAmerica Stadium, home of the Carolina Panthers. Teachers not only had the opportunity to see the field and discuss procedures to ensure it is game ready, but also had the opportunity to get a behind the scenes look at the locker rooms, press box and coaches boxes.

Fort Mill High School was host to the 2016 conference, which started off with the opening session that included updates from the Agricultural Education staff and faculty as well as updates from the Department of Education presented by Maria Swygert, Education Associate and Team Leader with the office of Career and Technical Education. Tom Dobbins, Director of the Clemson Extension Service, also addressed teachers.

The SCAAE Banquet followed the opening session. The event was held at the beautiful Brakefield at Riverwalk conference center and featured the recognition of deserving teachers from across the state for their success in the classroom as well as recognition of those who provided support to Agricultural Education in South Carolina.

The objective of the conference was to provide educational programs for the teachers in attendance to prepare them for the coming school year. Teachers had an opportunity to choose from a variety of workshops, which covered such topics ranging from Certifications, Soil Judging, Welding Simulators, Local Plans and Inquiry Based Learning.

The South Carolina Agricultural Educators Conference is held annually to provide in-service to Agricultural Educators to ensure that they are kept up-to-date with developments in both education and the agricultural industry.

### SCAAE Awards

#### Ideas Unlimited

Robert Bollier  
Lexington Applied Technology Center



#### Teacher Turn The Key

Jessica Jones  
Center for Advanced Technical Studies



#### Outstanding Young Member

Marie Bolt  
Anderson V Career Campus



#### Outstanding Agriscience Teacher

Christina Alexander  
Seneca High School



#### Outstanding Teacher

James Roberts  
Aynor High School



#### Outstanding Adult Ed. Program

Waylon Priester  
Aiken Adult Monday Night Horticulture Class



#### Outstanding Program

Lee Petigout  
Nation Ford High School







## Glenn Stevens Named Distinguished Teacher

*Contributed by Tim Keown*

Glenn Stevens, agricultural educator at Belton-Honea Path High School, was recently named the 2016 Clark Woods Distinguished Teacher. The South Carolina Association of Agricultural Educators (SCAAE) gives this award during their statewide conference, which was held in Rock Hill, SC.

His peers, who are from all corners of South Carolina, selected Stevens for this high award, which proves how far his leadership and influence ranges. Stevens is the perfect candidate for the award due to his excellence in the classroom as well as his student's success outside of the classroom. He has coached nine state winning FFA Career Development Teams in his career as well as advised six State FFA Officers. Under his guidance, the BHP FFA Chapter has been named a "Gold Chapter" twelve times and received the Governor's Citation three times.



Stevens' longtime friend and colleague, Frank Stover Jr., presented the award. As he introduced the winner, he stated, "Receiving any award bearing the name of Clark Woods is sure to be a great honor. Mr. Stevens has a lot in common with Clark Woods. They both are great and successful teachers who are well respected by their peers and loved by their students. Clark was quiet and reserved, well, that's where the similarities end! Glenn is known statewide for voicing his opinions on any issues that effect student success. He always makes decisions that are student centered, first."

Stevens was also awarded the SCAAE Mentor Teacher of the Year Award for his guidance of seventeen student teachers over the years. He has been named Teacher of the Year for Travelers Rest High School in 1992 and also at BHP High School in 2000 and 2012. He has advised over one hundred and fifty FFA degree recipients, SCAAE Teacher of the year in 1997 and 2012, SCAAE Secondary Program in 2006, served as president of the SCAAE, and a multitude of other awards and professional service.

Stevens has taught high school agricultural education courses for thirty-one years in South Carolina. He taught eight years at Travelers Rest High School and twenty-three at BHP High School. Stevens serves as one of the chapter advisors for the BHP FFA and the Anderson Young Farmers. He is happily married to Maureen and they have three children, Ryan, Neal, and Erin.

## Senator Greg Hembree Receives Parris Agricultural Leadership Award

Senator Greg Hembree of Little River, SC, who represents State Senatorial District 28 including Horry and Dillon Counties, was presented the John W. Parris Agricultural Leadership Award by the SC Association of Agricultural Educators at their recent conference held in Rock Hill, SC. The award was presented to Senator Hembree by W. Pat Earle, Agricultural Education instructor at McBee High School, on behalf of the agricultural educators group.

"Senator Hembree demonstrates superb leadership on behalf of the Agriculture community in South Carolina as a member of the Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee, the Education Committee, the Transportation Committee and the Fish, Game and Forestry Committee of the State Senate," Mr. Earle said. "The Senator is a great friend and supporter of Agricultural Education and the FFA," he emphasized.

Senator Hembree was instrumental in securing state appropriations for significant improvements to the State FFA Leadership Center near North Myrtle Beach. He was a great supporter of state legislation to establish the SC Farm Aid Fund to provide assistance to farmers devastated by the severe floods of 2015. He has also played a major role in the passage of legislation in support of Clemson University, the SC Department of Agriculture, the State Forestry Commission and the SC Department of Natural Resources.



After graduating for the University of Memphis in 1982, Senator Hembree received his Juris Doctor degree from the University of South Carolina in 1985. He has served as the city attorney for North Myrtle Beach and the 15th Circuit Solicitor for Horry and Georgetown Counties. He is a practicing attorney with the firm of Monckton, Hembree, and Humphries in Myrtle Beach.

"A recipient of the Honorary FFA Chapter Degree from the Green Sea-Floyds FFA Chapter and the Honorary State FFA Degree from the SC FFA Association, Senator Hembree will be awarded the Honorary American FFA Degree by the 600,000 member National FFA Organization in October," Mr. Earle said.

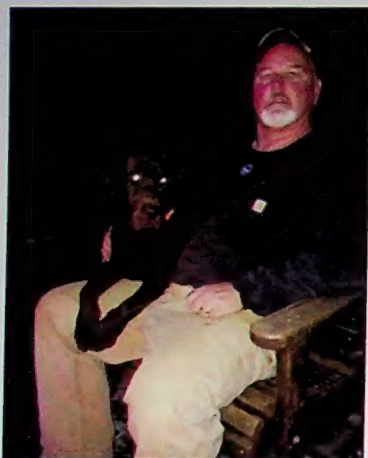
Senator Hembree and his wife, Renee, have three children, Nora Taylor, Ellen Hall, and John Isaac.

The John W. Parris Agricultural Leadership Award is the most esteemed recognition presented by the South Carolina Association of Agricultural Educators. This award was established several years ago by the association and named in honor of Mr. Parris of Columbia, SC, a nationally recognized leader in Agriculture and Natural Resource Conservation with more than 50 years of professional service.



## Jay Copelan

*Contributed by Tim Keown*



Jay Copelan began his career in agricultural education as an FFA member at Habersham Central High School in Mount Airy, Georgia under the leadership of FFA advisor Mr. Danny Brooks. Jay was an active member of his FFA Chapter, competing on the Soils, Public Speaking, and Livestock Judging teams. He was also a young leader, serving as the FFA chapter vice president during his senior year.

Upon graduating Clemson University with a BS in Agricultural Education, he accepted a job in Glynn County, Georgia as an extension agent. He worked there for two years before realizing that he was better suited for the classroom. Copelan then accepted a teaching position at Crescent High School in Iva, South Carolina where he taught for thirteen years. After serving the Crescent chapter extensively, he decided to take a position at Anderson V Career Center. He taught there for seventeen years until his recent retirement. During his teaching career, he coached seven CDE state champion teams, advised three FFA state officers, assisted eighteen American Degree applicants, had approximately sixty state FFA degree recipients, and had twenty proficiency award winners. As a Young Farmer advisor, he led one national president and two state presidents, was awarded Advisor of the Year in 2016, served as the Executive Secretary from 1995-1997, hosted two summer tours, attended seven NYFEA conventions, and had multiple regional and state winners in the SCYFAA Awards Program.

Jay has been married to his lovely wife, Kelly, for twenty-eight blessed years. They have three children: Jared, Anna, and JP. His retirement plans are to expand his 50 acre beef and hay farm, travel more with his family, and assist Kelly with "whatever she needs, because she has been by [his] side [his] entire career." He and his family are active members of Varennes Heights Baptist Church where he serves as a Deacon, Sunday School Superintendent, and is heavily involved in the Men's Ministry Team. He is now working part time at Specialized Turf Equipment Company (STEC) in Anderson.

## Cleveland Jackson

*Contributed by Lena Renwick*



Cleveland Jackson began his career in agricultural education as an FFA Advisor and Agricultural Educator in Union County, South Carolina. In addition to being a farmer and landscape company owner, Mr. Jackson served the Union County School District for 47 years of his career. When Cleveland began his teaching career in 1969, he only taught male students as females were not allowed in Agriculture Education classes at this time. Over the years Mr. Jackson has had the opportunity to teach a large number of students. He said "Ninth graders are my favorite. Then you can teach them for their tenth grade, eleventh grade, and twelfth grade years and make a big impact on their lives."

When asked what was the biggest challenge he faced during his long devoted career he answered with this "Working under 24 different administrators". Mr. Jackson believes the key to being a good Agriculture Education teacher and FFA Advisor is to work with the students and the community and show that you care about them. His passion for agriculture helped to give him the drive and determination to spend countless hours working at the school garden, community garden, and in the greenhouse day after day.

Since Mr. Jackson has retired he is now actively working both his farm and landscape business as well as expanding the community garden that he started with his students as a class project. In 2010, his FFA chapter at Union County High School was recognized for being the first chapter in the state of South Carolina to create and invest in a community garden. Mr. Jackson is now sending vegetables from the community garden to Microsoft once a week. In addition, Mr. Jackson is working with fifth, sixth, and seventh graders from the county every Saturday in the community garden. He is teaching them about the soil, planting, harvesting, and marketing the end products.

Mr. Jackson holds a special place in the heart of many residents of Union County. He has had a long teaching career of 47 years and has had the opportunity to positively impact the lives of many.







## Bill Parker

*Contributed by Tim Keown*



Bill Parker began his career in agricultural education as an FFA member at Blacksburg High School. His FFA Advisors were Mr. Calvin Robertson, Mr. Monte Crisp, and Mr. Fred Wilkins. He served as the chapter Sentinel for two years and also Chapter Vice President. As a student, he competed in Soil Judging and Livestock Judging, in which he and his teammates were regional winners numerous times; he was also the high individual scorer.

Upon graduating Clemson University with a BS in Agricultural Education, Mr. Parker began teaching at his alma mater where he remained for his 34 year career. He taught in the same classroom in which he sat as a student. During his career, he had several FFA proficiency award winners, eighty State FFA Degree recipients, one Region Star in Agribusiness, one State Star Farmer, and was named the Outstanding Region Young Farmer Chapter. Mr. Parker has twice been named the Teacher of the Year for Blacksburg High School, once in 1988 and again in 2012. He has been awarded the Honorary American FFA Degree and the South Carolina Honorary State FFA Degree.

His retirement plans are to get back into farming on the land where he grew up and to "get through [his] daughter's wedding and possibly deal with grandchildren one of these years, the Lord willing." His daughter, Jessica, will be graduating in December in American Sign Language and Interpretation from Clemson University. She is marrying Tyler Moss, another of his former students.

Mr. Parker has a new part time job at the Blacksburg Welcome Center and is heavily involved in his church, West End Baptist Church in Gaffney, SC. He has served as the Chairman of Deacons and the Chairman of Finance this past church year. He is also a Sunday School teacher, member of the Praise Team, and part of a mission team that provides meals and services for the Harbor of Hope homeless shelter in Gaffney.

## Jason Wigington

*Contributed by Tim Keown*

Jason Wigington began his career in agricultural education as an FFA member at Wren High School in Piedmont, SC under the leadership of FFA advisor Mr. LV Walker. Jason was an active member of his FFA Chapter, competing on the Soil Judging Team and also serving as the chapter president for two terms.

Wigington graduated with a BS and a Masters in Agricultural Education from Clemson University. Upon graduation, he taught two years at North Davidson Senior High School in NC. He then returned to SC and accepted a teaching position at Travelers Rest High School where he taught from 1993-2016. During his teaching career, he coached

numerous FFA CDE state champion teams, advised one FFA state officer, had approximately one hundred-fifteen state FFA degree recipients, and had fifteen proficiency award winners.

Jason and his lovely wife, Stacey, have three children: John Thomas, Isaiah, and Presley. He has no plans to truly retire. He enjoys working at Wigington Turf, the company he created. He and his family are active members of Easley Church of God where he and Stacey teach the Middle School class.



## Join us for the 5th Annual SC AgriBiz & Farm Expo

*Contributed by Miriam Pflug, Expo Coordinator*

Mark your calendar today and make plans to attend the 5th Annual SC AgriBiz & Farm Expo on Wednesday, January 11, 2017 and Thursday, January 12, 2017 at the Florence Civic Center. At this exceptional event, SC AgriBiz brings together the best in Agriculture—Education, Connecting and Innovation—all rooted in tradition and thriving through innovation.

The Expo begins at 9AM on Wednesday, January 11th and includes a day filled with educational programming, visiting exhibitors and connecting with leading agriculturalist. New this year will include the SC FFA Tractor Operations and Safety Challenge beginning at 8AM. In addition, FFA will host youth leadership classes beginning at 11AM and 1PM. The day concludes with the "Taste of SC" which begins at 6:30PM, a southern culture experience to tasting the finest foods produced in SC.

The SC Commissioner of Ag Breakfast kicks off at 8AM on Thursday, January 12th, with another opportunity to learn more about SC agriculture and the 2017 ag outlook. The day continues with more educational sessions and opportunities to connect with exhibitors and ag leaders.

Daily admission to the AgriBiz and Farm Expo is \$5. Taste of South Carolina and Commissioner's Breakfast tickets may be purchased separately for \$25 each. For more information about the Expo or to purchase tickets, visit [www.SCAgriBizExpo.com](http://www.SCAgriBizExpo.com)

## SC AgriBiz & Farm Expo







## York County Host the 2016 South Carolina Young Farmer Summer Tour

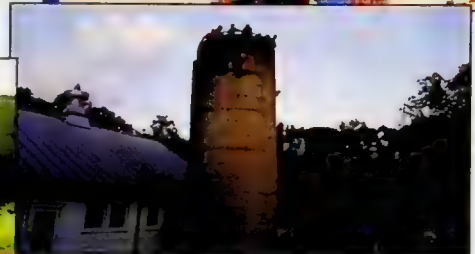
*Contributed by Courtney Petitgout*

Over 250 SCYFAA members, advisors, sponsors, and their families gathered in York County July 22nd and 23rd for the annual SCYFAA Summer Tour. Premier sponsors for the tour this year included AgSouth Farm Credit, Southern States, and the York County Farm Bureau. Without these generous sponsors the event could not have been a success.

The Friday tours included stops at Metrolina Greenhouses in York, Black's Peaches in York, and RideAbility Therapeutic Riding Facility in Clover. Metrolina Greenhouses is a wholesale greenhouse facility that has over 175 acres of outdoor growing facility. A watermelon snack break was sponsored at Black's Peaches, a family run farm specializing in peaches and other fresh produce. The farm also has a daily lunch special and agritourism program for local schools and children's groups. Rideability Therapeutic Riding Facility is an equine based therapeutic riding program. The program serves individuals with physical, emotional, and mental disabilities. Friday ended with dinner and music at the Anne Springs Close Dairy Barn in Fort Mill, sponsored by AgSouth Farm Credit. The Anne Springs Close Greenway is a 2,100-acre nature preserve on the outskirts of Charlotte, N.C. Representatives from the Greenway talked about all of the opportunities the preserve offered to the urban population surrounding it.

Saturday tours included Puckerbutt Pepper Company in Fort Mill and Tega Hills Farm in Tega Cay. Springs Farm Market hosted a watermelon snack break for visitors. The Farm Market is a part of Springs Industries, Inc. Puckerbutt Pepper Company grows, harvests, and makes their own pepper sauces, jellies, and seasonings. The tour was able to see one of the pepper plots and view some of Puckerbutt's products for sale. Tega Hills Farm grows a variety of produce, including lettuce, tomatoes, cucumbers, zucchini, and herbs, hydroponically. The farm sells at local farmer's markets and has an on-site farm store. The event ended with a Honey Baked Ham lunch at Nation Ford High School sponsored by Southern States.

The Lexington County Young Farmer Chapters will host the SCYFAA Summer Tour next year.



## Sanderson Named Associate State Director

*Contributed by Billy Keels*

Steve Sanderson of Sumter, SC has been named the Associate State Director for Agricultural Education. He will serve as the Regional Coordinator for the Pee Dee and Lower State Regions. In addition, he will serve as the coordinator of the SC FFA Camping program to include supervising the FFA Camp Director and staff.

A graduate of Clemson University with a BS and MS in Agricultural Education, Sanderson taught Agriculture in Sumter County at Crestwood High School and most recently has served as the Agriculture Teacher at Lakewood High School. Sanderson also previously served as Associate State Director for Agricultural Education from 2005 until 2014.

Sanderson has received numerous awards. Some of



his most noted recognitions were: SCAAE Outstanding Young Teacher and the SCAAE Adult Education Program of the Year. While previously serving as Associate State Director, Sanderson also was named to the National Board of Directors for the National Young Farmer Education Association.

Sanderson has had much success with both the FFA and with the SC Young Farmer and Agribusiness Association. He has won numerous State Contests with the FFA. The Sumter County Young Farmer Chapter is one of the most active in the state and consistently wins awards year after year.

Sanderson will be housed at the Sumter County Extension office in Sumter, SC.



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